

# MacDill Air Force Base Fact Sheet

MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., located eight miles south of downtown Tampa, is an Air Mobility Command installation. The base covers about 5,700 acres at the southern tip of the Interbay Peninsula, with 1,000 acres of undeveloped and protected wetlands. The host unit, the 6<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Wing, has a two-fold mission of air refueling and combatant commander support. The major mission partners at MacDill include U.S. Central Command, U.S. Special Operations Command, the Joint Communications Support Element and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

## The Mission

The 6<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Wing falls under the 18<sup>th</sup> Air Force and Air Mobility Command. The organizational structure of the wing consists of a mission support group, operations group, maintenance group and medical group.

The wing's overall mission is to provide worldwide air refueling and airlift support in support of the Air Force's Global Reach, mission partners' Global Power mission, and to provide infrastructure support to the men and women of U.S. Central Command, U.S. Special Operations Command and the more than 45 mission partners that call MacDill home.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Group is responsible for base services such as security, fire protection, communications, personnel support, civil engineering, communications, personnel, recreation, contracting, supplies and materiel, equipment, transportation and the wing's deployment effort. The 6<sup>th</sup> Operations Group includes personnel in weather, airfield management and aircrew for MacDill's aircraft. The aircraft assigned to MacDill include the KC-135R Stratotanker and the C-37A, which are flown by members of the 91<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Squadron and the 310<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, respectively. The 6<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group provides the upkeep of the wing's aircraft ensuring they remain mission capable. The 6<sup>th</sup> Medical Group mans a base hospital with inpatient and outpatient care, dental services, and two full-service pharmacies serving active-duty, dependents and retirees alike.

## The People

The 6<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Wing alone is a 3,000-person force capable of rapidly projecting air-refueling power anywhere in the world. The unit carries out a two-fold mission of air refueling and support to the two Unified Commands based at MacDill. Along with eleven other Air Mobility Command bases, MacDill is part of America's Air Mobility Team. If you include all personnel assigned to each of the tenant units, the MacDill family is a diverse group of more than 7,500 active-duty military, Reservists and civilian employees. In addition to those currently working and living at the base, the MacDill family also includes more than 72,000 military retirees and family members who live within 50 miles of the base. Community involvement is inherent with military life. MacDill has been an energetic partner in the growth of the Greater Tampa Bay area since the base was established in 1939. Though there have been many changes in the Bay area during the past 60 years, one constant has remained – MacDill's commitment to helping improve the community. Today, the relationship between MacDill and the Bay area is stronger than ever.

Over the years MacDill formalized support for shared goals with the community through a series of community partnership agreements. These agreements are designed to focus and organize our combined



resources, talents and capabilities to benefit both the military and civilian members of Tampa Bay communities.

### [The History](#)

During the Spanish-American War (1898), Tampa, because of its strategic location, was chosen as a rendezvous point for troops heading south to help Cuba gain independence from Spain. Approximately 10,000 of the 66,000 troops in Tampa waiting for ships headed to Cuba set up camp around what was then known as Port Tampa City, which bordered what is now MacDill AFB.

There are several dates surrounding the history of MacDill AFB. Official records report an establishment date of May 24, 1939, date construction began Sept. 6, 1939, and the date of beneficial occupancy March 11, 1940. The base was officially activated as MacDill Army Air Base April 16, 1941, named after Col. Leslie MacDill, who was killed in an airplane crash near Washington D.C., Nov. 9, 1938. The first commander was Col. Clarence L. Tinker.